

However, since there is no revenue coming in, and yes, we are requiring the Department of Environmental Control to do some things with the NRDs to implement the program, even though there's no funds, that that will cost...cause some expenditures for the department. So, if this bill should move today, I would have no reluctance of introducing an A bill to...to support the contents of this program.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: I appreciate that, Senator Johnson, because obviously my concern is if we directly or indirectly create a cost to an agency, it's important that we be up...be up front in funding it. Obviously, if we were in a position, which I realize we aren't, to create a cash fund and impose the proper fee to pay for it, we could...even then you probably need some seed money to make it work. But as the bill is written, there are requirements that do have a General Fund impact and, if the bill would move, obviously the fiscal office would be willing to help you draft a proper A bill for it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Is there anyone else wishing to address the advancement of LB 338? Seeing no one, Senator Rod Johnson, do you wish to close on the advancement?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members, I appreciate the...the discussion on this particular bill. I think it highlights a problem that this state will have to face at some particular point and that we have water quality concerns today and those will not go away. I might add, as I mentioned in my opening, the Governor has introduced at least in concept to us, an Environmental Trust Fund plan that he has, that may very well dovetail into what we're trying to do here. And I, as I said earlier, I'd like an opportunity to take a look at what the Governor is proposing. Possibly the funding source that they have identified to that program might very well fit to this...to this particular program in some fashion. I can agree, or I can at least appreciate the philosophical concerns that some people have about creating, in this case, a fund that at this point is not...does not have an identifiable funding source, but I think as we proceed with this issue, possibly we can find a funding source that will work to make this program a workable program so that, as I said earlier, we can help supplement some of the costs that the NRDs are going to encounter as they do water testing and potentially create water quality plans for their districts. With that, I'd move for the advancement of the bill.